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(*k*) Have they paid anything to the Government for getting these contracts?

(*l*) Were the contracts given to these firms after publicly calling for tenders or by public auction?

(*m*) For what period was each of the contracts entered into with these firms?

(*n*) Are not the Government aware that the said contracts are open to serious objection and that they have been adversely criticised by the public?

(*o*) Are not the Government aware of the criticisms urged against the said contracts in the Popular Assembly, especially at the eleventh and twelfth sessions? (See pp. 84, 100 and 102 of the printed proceedings of the eleventh session and pp. 101 of the printed proceedings of the twelfth session.)

(*p*) Were the contracts with either of these firms renewed or confirmed even after the above-said criticisms were made, and if so, will the Government kindly explain why it was so done?

(*q*) Can the Government give an assurance that such contracts will not be made at least in the future, and that, if it is legally allowable, they will take steps to cancel the contracts already entered into and yet in force?

17. (*a*) Will the Government kindly state whether they accept the principle that, in regard to abkari administration relating to country liquor, the *complete* excise system is superior to other systems, and whether it is not the policy of Government to introduce the former system throughout the whole of the State, and if not, will the Government kindly state the reasons for the Government view?

(*b*) Does not the former system further the declared policy of Government of deriving "a maximum revenue from a minimum consumption"?

(*c*) Will the Government kindly state when the excise system was first introduced in Travancore?

(*d*) Will the Government kindly state the places in Travancore where the complete excise system prevails now and why it has not been introduced throughout the *whole* of the State till now?

(*e*) Will the Government kindly state also why the independent shop system in regard to toddy is not introduced in the taluks of Shertallai (*minus* that portion of it which lies within the Alleppey Municipality) Vaikam, Kunnatnad, Alangad, and Parur, although in these very taluks the said system was introduced six years ago in regard to arrack, and although, even in regard to toddy, the said system has been prevailing throughout the

Answer.

(*k*) No.

(*l*) No.

(*m*) The period of agreement with Messrs. Macmillan and Co., is ten years from the date of publication of each separate reader; *vide* Clause 12 of the agreement; and that with Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co., is seven years from the date of the first publication of each separate book; *vide* Clause 8 of the agreement.

(*n*) & (*o*) The Government are aware of the criticisms against the contracts. They do not admit that the contracts are open to serious objection.

(*p*) The agreement with Messrs. Macmillan & Co., was revised in 1919 to suit altered conditions.

(*q*) Government cannot give an undertaking in advance. The questions connected with each contract must be disposed of as they arise with reference to the conditions existing at that time.

17. (*a*) If by the expression "complete excise system" the member means "the independent shop system" it is superior to the farming system, and the policy of Government has been to gradually introduce the former system throughout Travancore.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) If by the "excise system" the member means "the independent shop system", it was introduced in 1073 M. E.

(*d*) to (*h*) The independent shop system in regard to arrack prevails throughout the whole State except the Devicolam taluk where the farming system still prevails. It has not been introduced in that taluk for want of transport facilities for the regular supply of arrack from the State Distillery. As regards toddy, the independent shop system prevails in all the taluks except the following:—Shertallai, Vaikam, Kunnatnad, Alangad, Parur and Devicolam. There is no consumption of toddy in the last-mentioned taluk. The other five taluks are all bordering on the Cochin State. The chief reason for not introducing the

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major portion of Travancore for the past 6 years or more?

(*f*) Had the late permanent Excise Commissioner recommended the introduction of the independent shop system in regard to toddy also in the taluks of Kunnatnad, Alangad, Parur, Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha, with effect from the beginning of 1096? Had the Government accepted that recommendation, fixed the number and sites of the shops in each of the said taluks and published a Notification for the auction sale of those shops?

(*g*) Subsequently, when the late permanent Exise Commissioner had gone on leave preparatory to retirement, did the acting Excise Commissioner recommend the cancellation or withdrawal of the said Notification and the retention of the old system in regard to the former three taluks (Kunnatnad, Alangad and Parur)? Within how many days of his taking charge did he do so? Will the Government kindly state his reasons for doing so and the reasons of Government for accepting the same, and also the reasons of the late permanent Excise Commissioner for his recommendation and the reasons of the Government for accepting it then?

(*h*) Has not the independent shop system in regard to toddy also been introduced in the taluks of Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha with effect from 1096, in accordance with the recommendation of the late permanent Excise Commissioner?

(*i*) Who was the contractor for toddy vend in these two taluks (Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha) for the last biennial period (1094-95)? What was the annual rental for each of these two taluks during that period? What is the annual rental for the current biennial period (1096-97) for all the independent shops put together in each of these two taluks?

(*j*) Who was the contractor for toddy vend in the three taluks of Kunnatnad, Alangad and Parur for the last biennial period (1094-95)? And who is the contractor for the current biennial period (1096-97)? For how long has he been contractor for those taluks? What was the annual rental for the last biennial period for each of these three taluks? And what is the annual rental for the current biennial period for each of these three taluks?

(*k*) Was the right of toddy vend in these three taluks for the current biennial period sold in public auction? Or was it sold by a private arrangement? If it was not by public auction, will the Government kindly state their reasons for the same?

Answer.

independent shop system with its accompaniment of tree tax into these taluks is the very low rate of tree tax in the adjoining taluks of Cochin. The introduction of the independent shop system, before the tree tax in the southern taluks of Cochin is enhanced with a view to bring it up to the level of the rates prevailing in Travancore, will send up the price of toddy in this State and the tendency for consumers will be for smuggling cheap toddy from Cochin to Travancore or for going to the nearest frontier shop in Cochin to indulge in cheap drink. The Cochin Government have been addressed to take the necessary steps to enhance the tree tax as far as possible with effect from 1098, so that the independent shop system may be introduced into these taluks by the expiry of the current lease. In the light of the above facts Government do not consider it necessary to supply the further information required by the Member.

(*i*) Mr. Subramania Karayalar was the contractor for toddy vend in the taluks of Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha for the years 1094 and 1095. The annual rental for the two biennial contracts is given below:—

Taluk.	*Annual rental for 1094-1095.*	*Annual rental for 1096-1097.*
	Rs.	Rs.
Muvattupuzha	60,000	71,980*
Todupuzha	15,500	32,365

*This does not include Rs. 8,270 for the shops in Elakad, the pakuthi having been transferred to the Ettumanur taluk in 1095.

(*j*) Mr. T. Guruswamy Nadar was the toddy vend contractor for the taluks of Kunnatnad, Alangad and Parur for 1094 and 1095 and he is the contractor for 1096 and 1097 also. He has been the contractor since 1082, 1085 and 1088 respectively for these taluks. The annual rentals are given below:—

Taluk.	*Annual rental for 1094-1095.*	*Annual rental for 1096-1097.*
	Rs.	Rs.
Kunnatnad including Vazhakulam	36,500	39,200
Alangad including Edapalli	40,500	42,500
Parur	35,000	37,000

(*k*) & (*l*) The contract was given by direct negotiation to Mr. Guruswamy Nadar at an increased rental.

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(*l*) If the contractor for toddy vend in these three taluks for the current biennial period is the same as the one for the last period, will the Government kindly state why the right of toddy vend was given to him again and that without a public sale?

(*m*) Who is the contractor for toddy vend in the taluks of Shertallai (*minus* the portion within Alleppey Municipality) and Vaikam for the current biennial period and who was the contractor for the last period? What is the annual rental fixed for each of these two taluks for the current biennial period and what was it during the last biennial period? Was the right of toddy vend in these two taluks for the current biennial period sold in public auction or was it sold by a private arrangement?

18. Will the Government kindly give a statement in the following Forms showing the abkari rentals for each of the various taluks or excise tracts in the State?

Name of taluk or excise tract.	Rental for the taluk or tract, or, in cases where the Independent Shop system prevails, the total rental for all the shops put together in that taluk or tract.			
	Regarding arrack.			
	For biennial period 1090-91.	For biennial period 1092-93.	For biennial period 1094-95.	For biennial period 1096-97.
Tovala				
Agastisvaram				
Eraniel, &c.				

Answer.

(*m*) Mr. T. Guruswamy Nadar is the toddy contractor for the Shertallai and Vaikam taluks for 1096 and 1097. He was also the contractor for 1094 and 1095. The annual rentals for the two periods are given below:—

Taluk.	*Annual rental for 1094-1095.*	*Annual rental for 1096-1097.*
	Rs.	Rs.
Shertallai	76,000	86,000
Vaikam	75,000	75,000

For the latter part of the question, the member is referred to the answer under (*k*) and (*l*) above.

18. The information asked for is placed on the table.

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